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PROGRAM CBS Evening News STATION WBAL TV  
CBS Network

DATE January 18, 1983 6:30 PM CITY Baltimore

SUBJECT The Falklands

[Note: the following report appeared on the "first feed" of the CBS Evening News, fed to CBS member stations at 6:30 PM and not broadcast in Washington, DC at that time. The report was not broadcast in subsequent "feeds" of the CBS Evening News broadcast at 7:00 PM.]

DAN RATHER: An official British inquiry today cleared Prime Minister Thatcher's government of any criticism or blame for the Argentine invasion of the Falkland Islands. The six-month investigation concluded there was no way the government could have foreseen or alerted the actions which triggered the war.

For Britain and Argentina, the major battles may be over but Bill Lynch has learned at the Pentagon the Buenos Aires government has not conceded defeat.

BILL LYNCH: CBS News has learned that US intelligence expects British forces in the Falkland Islands to face a campaign of military harassment by Argentina. Sources say there is evidence of unusual training and preparation for commando style operations. Targets would probably include British radar and communications sites and air defense batteries.

US intelligence also warns of Argentine plans to catch British helicopters and fighters outside the 200-mile exclusion zone and shoot them down.

Royal Air Force Phantom jets have reportedly been flying close to Argentine air space and the Argentine Air Force has deployed newly delivered Mirage fighters to its southernmost airbase to challenge them. There have been no hostilities since the Argentine surrender last June 14th.

Last week, Prime Minister Thatcher visited the Falklands with assurances of continued British protection. Her visit and the lack of any British interest in early talks on the sovereignty dispute may have prompted Argentina's interest in renewed military action.

However, US and British analysts agree, Argentina is a long way from posing any serious threat of retaking the islands she held for two months last spring.

Bill Lynch, CBS News, the Pentagon.

# Argentine move on Falklands feared

From combined dispatches

**BUENOS AIRES** — The Argentine air force moved two squadrons of Mirage fighter-bombers to southern air bases within striking distance of the Falkland Islands three weeks ago, diplomatic sources said yesterday.

The sources were commenting on a report by CBS Television that Argentina is planning to launch a campaign of harassment against British forces in the Falklands.

The report, broadcast Tuesday night, quoted U.S. intelligence sources as saying Argentina plans to shoot down British military aircraft based in the Falklands and launch commando-style raids against targets such as radar and communications sites and air defense batteries.

The diplomatic sources in Buenos Aires said two squadrons of Mirage III fighter bombers were transferred from their base in the northern city of Cordoba to a number of airfields on the Patagonian coast in southern Argentina three weeks ago.

Meanwhile, the 4th Brigade of the Argentine army, also based in Cordoba, is being trained as a crack commando unit, they added.

In Washington, U.S. government officials expressed increasing concern over reports that Argentina may be "preparing another assault or at least a campaign of harassment."

The officials, who did not want to be identified, said the concern centers on accelerated Argentine military train-

Neither the State Department, the Pentagon nor the CIA had any comment.

Argentine naval patrol aircraft have increased their level of activity throughout the South Atlantic, U.S. intelligence officials said.

The purpose of moving the super-

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*In Washington, U.S. government officials expressed increasing concern over reports that Argentina may be preparing another assault on the British-held Falkland Islands . . .*

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ing, particularly of commando units, and increased activity by Argentine air force fighters.

Quoting intelligence sources, CBS said U.S. analysts think targets may include British radar sites, communications facilities and anti-aircraft batteries, adding, "U.S. intelligence also warns of an Argentine plan to lure a British patrol helicopter outside the 200-mile exclusion zone and shoot it down."

sonic Mirages to southern air bases was not immediately clear, but the move could have been connected with expectations that British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher would visit the Falkland Islands this month, the sources said.

Mrs. Thatcher flew into the Falklands secretly Jan. 8. She visited the British colony for five days without incident.

In London, British defense experts said yesterday that Argentina might well be capable of mounting propaganda raids on remote parts of the islands, where Britain has 4,000 troops.

"They could hoist the Argentine flag, take some pictures and then depart before anyone knew they were there — if they landed in some of the remoter areas," said a defense official who declined to be identified.

Argentine sources pointed out that air force chief Jorge Augusto Hughes had made strong public statements recently, reiterating that Argentina's conflict with Britain over the Falkland Islands has not ended.

On the other hand, the transfer of the Mirages could be nothing more than a redeployment of planes to bolster Argentina's southern air defenses now that large numbers of fighter-bombers lost in the Falklands conflict have been replaced, the sources added.

During the last half of 1982, Argentina purchased 10 Mirage 111 fighter-bombers from Peru and about 24 from Israel, according to arms trade sources.

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20 January 1983

# U.S. worried Falklands face new assault

Intelligence reports Argentina preparing for campaign—military or otherwise

WASHINGTON (UPI)—U.S. government officials expressed increasing concern Wednesday over signs Argentina may be preparing another assault, or at least a campaign of harassment, on the British-held Falkland Islands.

The officials, who did not want to be identified, said the concern centers on accelerated Argentine military training, particularly of commando units, and increased activity by Argentine air force fighters moving farther out in their patrols near the Falklands, 400 miles off the southeast coast of Argentina.

The activity has been accompanied by more strident, militaristic statements by Argentine military leaders.

Quoting intelligence sources, CBS said Wednesday Argentina "may be preparing to terrorize the Falk-

lands" with commando raids from submarines.

Military sources said Argentina has three submarines for such an operation.

THE CBS REPORT added, however, that both U.S. and British analysts agree Argentina "is a long way from posing any serious threat of retaking the islands."

The network said U.S. analysts believe targets might include British radar sites, communications facilities and anti-aircraft batteries, adding that, "U.S. intelligence also warns of an Argentine plan to lure a British patrol helicopter outside the mile exclusion zone and shoot it down."

The CBS report said Britain has an infantry battalion on the island, the Royal Air Force has added a squadron of Phantom jets and radar

defenses have been upgraded.

Neither the State Department, the Pentagon nor the CIA had anything to say officially.

IN LONDON, the Ministry of Defense said Britain was "taking the report seriously."

U.S. government sources said that, while they did not expect any immediate Argentine moves, "there have been some disconcerting developments recently."

They said an increasingly belligerent Argentine stance was emerging since the recent visit to the Falklands by British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, a visit the Buenos Aires government characterized as "provocative."

Despite serious economic troubles, one of the American sources said, Argentina has been replenishing the aircraft it lost in its war with Britain with French-built Mirage fighters and stepping up training of special commando squads. In addition, a source said Argentina has been putting external fuel tanks on its planes to extend their range.

ONE OF THE submarines is a former U.S. Navy submersible, the Guppy. The other two are smaller German-built models. None is believed to have been actively involved in the British-Argentine war.

Intelligence reports, evaluating the tactics used by the Argentines in their Falklands campaign, noted the extensive use of civil aviation, which was used to assist the air force in its long missions to the distant Falklands. The Argentinians used everything from Piper Cubs to executive aircraft flying off the coast to help direct aerial operations.

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